

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOSCOW 16113 01 OF 02 111312Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 IO-13 ACDA-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00
DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01
SP-02 SS-15 SSO-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00 HA-05 TRSE-00
/090 W

-----087494 111322Z /50

O 111258Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4159
INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMCONSUL LENINGRAD
AMCONSUL MUNICH
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
USDEL MBFR VIENNA
USMISSION USNATO
USICA WASHDC
AMEMBASSY WARSAW

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 MOSCOW 16113

GENEVA FOR AMBASSADOR TOON

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, SHUM, UR
SUBJECT: SHCHARANSKIY TRIAL: MORNING OF SECOND DAY

SUMMARY: VIGIL CONTINUES IN CALM ATMOSPHERE JULY 11
OUTSIDE CLOSED SESSION OF SHCHARANSKIY TRIAL.
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PAGE 02 MOSCOW 16113 01 OF 02 111312Z

SHCHARANSKIY'S MOTHER APPEARED LATE, AFTER HAVING
TRIED DELIVER PETITION TO SUPREME COURT. SAKHAROV
SPENT ABOUT THIRTY MINUTES AT SCENE. GUARDS REFUSED
TO TELL EMBOFF WHETHER OR NOT TODAY'S SESSION OF
TRIAL WAS OPEN. END SUMMARY.

1. VIGIL CONTINUED JULY 11 ON STREET NEAR COURTHOUSE

WHERE ANATOLIY SHCHARANSKIY IS BEING TRIED. SUBSTANTIALLY FEWER REFUSENIKS, HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVISTS AND FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS (AND NO DIPLOMATS EXCEPT EMBOFF) APPEARED MORNING OF JULY 11 IN PART NO DOUBT BECAUSE OF ANNOUNCEMENT AT TRIAL YESTERDAY THAT TODAY'S SESSION WOULD BE CLOSED. LEONID SHCHARANSKIY DID NOT APPEAR AT ALL DURING MORNING. REFUSENIK SOURCES TOLD US THAT SINCE TODAY'S SESSION IS CLOSED HE IS USING TIME TO WRITE FULL ACCOUNT OF WHAT TRANSPIRED YESTERDAY.

2. IDA MILGROM DID NOT APPEAR UNTIL SHORTLY AFTER ELEVEN A.M. SHE HAD GONE TO SUPREME COURT TO ATTEMPT TO PRESENT IN PERSON PETITION, WHICH SHE FIRST SENT BY TELEGRAM YESTERDAY TO BOTH SUPREME COURT AND PRESIDING JUDGE AT HER SON'S TRIAL, TO BE PERMITTED TO ATTEND TRIAL. SHE WAS UNABLE TO FIND ANYONE WILLING TO ACCEPT PETITION AND WAS TOLD THAT DECISION ON WHETHER OR NOT SHE COULD ATTEND WAS ENTIRELY WITHIN COMPETENCE OF TRIAL JUDGE.

3. SAKHAROV ARRIVED AT SITE ABOUT 11:30 A.M. AND STAYED FOR SLIGHTLY MORE THAN THIRTY MINUTES. HE DISCUSSED AT LENGTH HIS OBSERVATIONS OF GINZBURG TRIAL, WHICH APPEARED TO PARALLEL THOSE REPORTED SEPTELS AND IN PRESS, AND CONFIRMED THAT HE WAS CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 MOSCOW 16113 01 OF 02 111312Z

REFUSED PERMISSION TO ATTEND. HE ESTIMATED THAT GINZBURG TRIAL WOULD END ON WEDNESDAY OR THURSDAY. HE ALSO CALLED ATTENTION TO LESSER KNOWN TRIAL IN VILNIUS OF HELSINKI GROUP MEMBER VIKTORAS PETKUS, WITH WHOM HE SAID HE WAS PERSONALLY ACQUAINTED. BEFORE LEAVING, SAKHAROV, WHO HAD PREVIOUSLY DISCUSSED DEVELOPMENTS IN SHCHARANSKIY CASE WITH SHCHARANSKIY'S MOTHER, TOLD HER THAT HE WOULD BE IN MOSCOW TODAY AND INVITED HER TO CONTACT HIM IF HIS HELP WAS NEEDED. HE DID NOT ATTEMPT TO GAIN ADMISSION TO COURTHOUSE, BUT EMBOFF, WHO HAPPENED TO BE LEAVING AT SAME TIME AS SAKHAROV (WHO DEPARTED ALONE), NOTED THAT HE STOPPED BRIEFLY TO SPEAK TO GUARDS AT BARRICADE ON OPPOSITE END OF STREET FROM WHERE CORRESPONDENTS AND SHCHARANSKIY SUPPORTERS WERE GATHERED.

4. ATMOSPHERE REMAINED CALM AT SITE AND AT MID-MORNING ABOUT HALF OF GUARDS AT BARRICADE WENT INSIDE. ALTHOUGH THEIR DEPARTURE OCCURRED WHILE THEY WERE BEING USED AS BACKDROP FOR FILMING OF U.S. CORRESPONDENT DISCUSSING CASE, THEY DID NOT RETURN. ONLY UNPLEASANT INCIDENT OCCURRED WHEN

WORKERS IN BUILDING OPPOSITE BARRICADES TOLD
CORRESPONDENTS AND REFUSENIKS TO MOVE ALONG BECAUSE
THEY WERE INTERFERING WITH WORK. ONE WOMAN
THREATENED TO THROW WATER ON THEM IF THEY REMAINED.
CORRESPONDENTS TOLD HER IT WAS A PUBLIC SIDEWALK
AND REFUSED TO MOVE. AFTER EXCHANGE OF WORDS
THROUGH WINDOW, WORKERS WITHDREW TO DISCUSS MATTER
AMONG THEMSELVES, APPARENTLY CONTENT FOR MOMENT WITH
HAVING SHOWN THEIR INDIGNATION AT BEING UNABLE TO WORK
BECAUSE OF COMMOTION.

5. UPON ARRIVAL AT SITE, EMBOFF ASKED SOVIET
SECURITY PERSON AT BARRICADE, WHO CLAIMED TO BE
CHIEF, WHETHER SESSION WOULD BE OPEN TODAY. GUARD
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PAGE 04 MOSCOW 16113 01 OF 02 111312Z

REPLIED THAT HE HAD NO INFORMATION ON THIS SUBJECT,

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PAGE 01 MOSCOW 16113 02 OF 02 111314Z
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 MOSCOW 16113

BEING THERE SIMPLY TO CHECK WHO ENTERED AND WHO
DEPARTED, AND TOLD EMBOFF TO CHECK WITH MOSCOW
CITY COURT.

6. EMBOFF WILL RETURN TO SCENE OF TRIAL DURING LATE
AFTERNOON TO OBSERVE EVENTS AS TODAY'S SESSION ENDS.
MATLOCK

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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